

**RESOLUTION**

**AUTHORIZING AWARD OF CONTRACT PROFESSIONAL LEGAL SERVICES: FIRST ALTERNATE MUNICIPAL PUBLIC DEFENDER TO MEGAN A. ODUYELA, ESQ. FOR TERM COMMENCING ON MARCH 20, 2023 AND TERMINATING ON DECEMBER 31, 2023 IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$2,400**

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Bridgewater requires the services of a professional New Jersey licensed attorney as follows: First Alternate Municipal Public Defender; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the New Jersey Local Unit “Pay to Play Law, N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq., the Township has sought qualified professionals, namely New Jersey licensed attorneys, to provide the services through the use of a “fair and open process,” as defined in N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.7; and

**WHEREAS**, as required by this law, the Township provided sufficient notice of its Request for Proposals/Qualifications; publicly solicited RFPs through the utilization of the Township’s official Web site; established an award and disclosure process documented in writing prior to soliciting any RFPs; publicly opened all proposals; and publicly will award the Contract via this Resolution of the Township Council; and

**WHEREAS**, in response to the RFP, Megan A. Oduyela, Esq. has submitted a proposal to serve as First Municipal Public Defender for the Township through December 31, 2023, and said proposal meets the selection criteria articulated in the aforementioned RFP; and

**WHEREAS**, Mayor Matthew C. Moench hereby appoints Megan A. Oduyela, Esq. as the First Alternate Municipal Public Defender and the advice and consent of the Township Council is needed; and

**WHEREAS**, Megan A. Oduyela, Esq., shall be compensated at a rate of \$600 for each municipal court session where she renders legal services per the RFP; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Council deems it in the best interests of the Township to award a contract to Megan A. Oduyela, Esq. to provide the services delineated in the RFPQ and wishes to provide its advice and consent; and

**WHEREAS**, the funds will be certified upon adoption of the temporary budget and subsequent adoption of the 2023 Municipal Budget; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Council that it hereby provides its advice and consent to the appointment by the Mayor of Megan A. Oduyela, Esq. as the First Alternate Municipal Public Defender, to serve in that role in circumstances where the Municipal Public Defender is unavailable to serve, where there are one or more eligible defendants on the same matter, where the Municipal Public Defender otherwise has a conflict of interest, or otherwise at the direction of the Municipal Public Defender or the Municipal Court Judge.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, by the Township Council of the Township of Bridgewater that a Professional Services Contract be awarded and executed with Megan A. Oduyela, Esq. to provide professional legal services as First Alternate Municipal Public Defender as reflected in the RFP through December 31, 2022.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Mayor Matthew C. Moench and Township Clerk Linda Doyle are hereby authorized to execute the contract and any and all related documents reflected in the RFP and its attachments with Megan A. Oduyela, Esq. and to take any and all actions necessary to complete and realize the intent and purpose of this Resolution.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Megan A. Oduyela, Esq. shall be compensated at a rate of \$600 for each municipal court session where she renders legal services per the RFP in an amount not exceed \$2,400.00 for the calendar year.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution shall be publicly advertised pursuant to N.J.S.A 40A:11-5 et seq.

Introduced	Seconded	Council	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
		Kurdyla	✓			✓
✓		Norgalis	✓			
		Pedroso	✓			
	✓	Ring	✓			
		Kirsh	✓			

Adopted: March 16, 2023